

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 /074 W

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R 230600Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5249

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UG

SUBJECT: UGANDAN ADDRESSES APPEAL TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON  
VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE GRZ MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS FOR AN APPOINTMENT, THE AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFF MET WITH E.A. OTENG MARCH 21. OTENG INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS AN EX-UGANDAN HIGH COURT JUDGE CURRENTLY WORKING AS A LEGISLATIVE DRAFTER IN THE GRZ MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN MUCH IMPRESSED WITH THE POSITION PRESIDENT CARTER HAS EXPRESSED ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE HAD THEREFORE REQUESTED THE MEETING TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA AND TO REQUEST DELIVERY TO PRESIDENT CARTER OF A COMMUNICATION ON THE MATTER.

2. OTENG SAID THAT HE HAD FLED UGANDA IN 1973 AFTER HAVING SPOKEN OUT PUBLICLY CONDEMNING THE ARREST AND MURDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE BENEDICTO KIWANUKA. OTENG HAD SAID PUBLICLY THAT IF THIS COULD HAPPEN TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE THEN NO ONE WAS SAFE IN UGANDA. THIS HAD REACHED AMIN WHO RESENTED IT. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS, OTENG AWARE OF AMIN'S REACTION AND APPREHENSIVE OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO HIM FLED THE COUNTRY. OTENG STATED THAT HIS BROTHER, ALSO A LANGI, HAD BEEN KILLED IN 1973 LEAVING HIM WITH

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THE CARE OF EIGHT OF HIS CHILDREN. OTENG IS CURRENTLY FEARFUL THAT IN THE COURSE OF THE UGANDAN REGIME'S CURRENT ACTIONS AGAINST NON-MUSLIM GROUPS THE REMAINDER OF HIS FAMILY IN THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN KILLED. IN HIS REMARKS OTENG WAS HARSH IN HIS CRITICISM OF AMIN'S UNBRIDLED CRUELTY AND SEES THE REGIME EMBARKED ON A PROGRAM OF DESTROYING ALL NON-MUSLIM UGANDANS TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE REPOPULATION OF THE COUNTRY AS A MUSLIM

STATE. OTENG SAID HE WISHED TO APPEAL TO PRESIDENT CARTER, AS THE LEADING SPOKESMAN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, TO ASSIST BY INSTRUCTING AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA. HE WISHED THE U.S. COULD ALSO DO SOMETHING ABOUT AMIN.

3. OTENG LEFT A LETTER AND AN APPENDIX CONTAINING A LISTING OF VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA FOR FORWARDING TO PRESIDENT CARTER. VIOLATIONS CITED CLOSELY PARALLEL THE ORAL PRESENTATION HE MADE. THE TYPES OF ATROCITIES CITED, SLAUGHTER OF ADULTS AND MALE CHILDREN AND THE POSIONING OF WATER SUPPLIED OF THOSE HIDING IN THE BUSH, ARE DESCRIBED IN EMOTIONAL TERMS WITHOUT SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION. OTENG NOTED THAT HE HAD NO POSITIVE CONFIRMATION OF THESE ALLEGATIONS, BUT MADE CLEAR THAT HE BELIEVED SUCH EXCESSES WERE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE CRUEL MANIC NATURE OF THE AMIN REGIME.

4. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT UGANDANS HAD THE SYMPATHY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND OTENG COULD BE ASSURED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS ADMINISTRATION FELT STRONGLY ABOUT ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WHILE THE U.S. CAN SPEAK OUT ABOUT SUCH ABUSES FROM TIME TO TIME, THE SITUATION IN UGANDA AND SPECIFICALLY ITS LEADERSHIP WAS A MATTER FOR UGANDANS TO ADDRESS.

5. OTENG'S COMMUNICATION TO THE PRESIDENT IS BEING POUCHED D/HA. LOW

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UGANDAN ADDRESSES APPEAL TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
**TAGS:** SHUM, UG, (CARTER, JIMMY), (OTENG, E A)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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